UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26204
2 August 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 July 1993 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the decisions adopted by the Sanctions Committee at its 95th meeting.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 5 July 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 24 June 1993 in which I set forth our view of the decisions adopted in the name of the Sanctions Committee established by Security Council resolution 661 (1991) at its 94th meeting. Having been informed of the decisions of this Committee at its 95th meeting, I have felt that the decisions adopted in the name of the Committee at this meeting require that I should address myself to you once more. With each of the Committee's meetings I feel sure, as must any fair-minded person who examines the working methods and decisions of the Committee, that it is the prior political motives and preconcerted designs against Iraq of certain States permanent members of the Security Council that govern the Committee's work and that impose upon it the use of selectivity in order to achieve the prearranged goal of reinforcing the embargo imposed on the long-suffering Iraqi people without regard for its basic needs or for its distress.

At this meeting, the representatives of the United States, Great Britain and France rejected requests that come within the purview of basic civilian humanitarian needs for the daily lives of the Iraqi people. This should give you cause to pause and review the work of the Committee in question, in the hope that you will intervene to bring an end to the biased interpretation and application of the Security Council resolutions concerning the economic embargo against Iraq being imposed by the representatives of these three countries. There follow hereunder examples of the requests rejected by the three representatives at the meeting in question.

1. The United States representative objected to the export to Iraq of 200 tons of polyester and acrylic yarn used in textile production on the grounds that it constituted an input to industry. It is, however, a civilian item that serves only the purpose for which it is imported, and there are no provisions in the Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq that prohibit the importation of inputs to civilian industry or to the textile industry.

2. The United Kingdom representative objected to the export of 300 tons of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) for a non-government hospital on the grounds that it was for the private hospitals sector. The British objection has no legal basis; hospitals, whether governmental or non-governmental, provide essential medical services to the Iraqi people as a whole. We can only interpret the British objection as having the aim of bringing about a breakdown and collapse in the health sector. As you well know, medication is not the only treatment that may save patients, particularly children, the elderly and vulnerable groups in general, and there is a whole series of essential medical needs that must be met.

3. The United Kingdom representative objected to the import of 103 rolls of galvanized steel plate by the Al-Fajr Plant for Steel Industries on the grounds that it was an input to industry. When the representative of Morocco, supported by the representative of Djibouti, drew attention to the fact that the material

was intended for the food industry and stated that the position of the Committee must accordingly be characterized by flexibility, the United States representative asserted that it was not possible to verify the identity of the end-user. This request is for materials of a service-related humanitarian character whose availability is necessary for the functioning of those food and health services regarded as key elements in the array of essential humanitarian needs of any civilized society.

4. The United Kingdom representative objected to the export of 45 crates of cable joints to a private enterprise. He justified his objection on the grounds that he was not convinced that schools and hospitals were the end-users. Rejections of this kind are arbitrary. They have the aim of blocking any request that falls within the scope of civilian humanitarian needs, and they ignore the fact that such needs are made up of an interconnected series of services, materials and items of equipment.

5. The United Kingdom representative objected to the export of 25.935 tons of concrete additives for the Al-Mamoon Company for the Production of Building Materials on the grounds that they were inputs to the construction materials industry. The representative of Morocco commented that the construction of housing was a humanitarian need and that the Committee must be flexible. As you are aware, there are no Security Council resolutions that prohibit Iraq from fabricating materials for the construction of dwellings, which are an essential humanitarian need for Iraqis. Objection to requests of such a civilian humanitarian character can only have the aim of creating substantial structural imbalances in the economic and social fabric of the Iraqi people for prearranged political goals.

6. The United Kingdom representative objected to the export of 15,000 tons of steel bars to the Ekur Trading Agency in Baghdad on the grounds that this was a multi-use item. When the representative of Morocco pointed out that the material would be used in the construction of houses, the United Kingdom representative did not alter his position.

7. The United States representative objected to the export of 66 containers of granite, for hospitals and health care centres, to a government agency in the health sector on the grounds that it is not a basic item. This is a finished item that is used for humanitarian purposes in medical institutions. If the United States representative had rid himself of his preconceived political motives, he would not have objected to this or other items that help the Iraqi people to live in a manner in keeping with the humanitarian requirements of the contemporary era.

The examples given above of refusals at the 95th meeting of the Committee to allow importation of items of a civilian humanitarian character indicate in a way that leaves no room for doubt that the embargo is intended to destroy Iraqi society by prior determination, in a calculated and organized endeavour and for motives that are incompatible with the values, customs and laws on which human society has been based in past and present times. We are unable to interpret the persistence of the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and France in rejecting so many requests without convincing grounds and without

legal support other than as a retaliatory political measure being applied by the three countries against the people of Iraq.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq